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The Non-Subscribing Presbyterian

No. 376. FEBRUARY, 1938.

WAY. TRUTH. LIFE.

"I am the Way, and the Truth and the Life."—JOHN X. 6.

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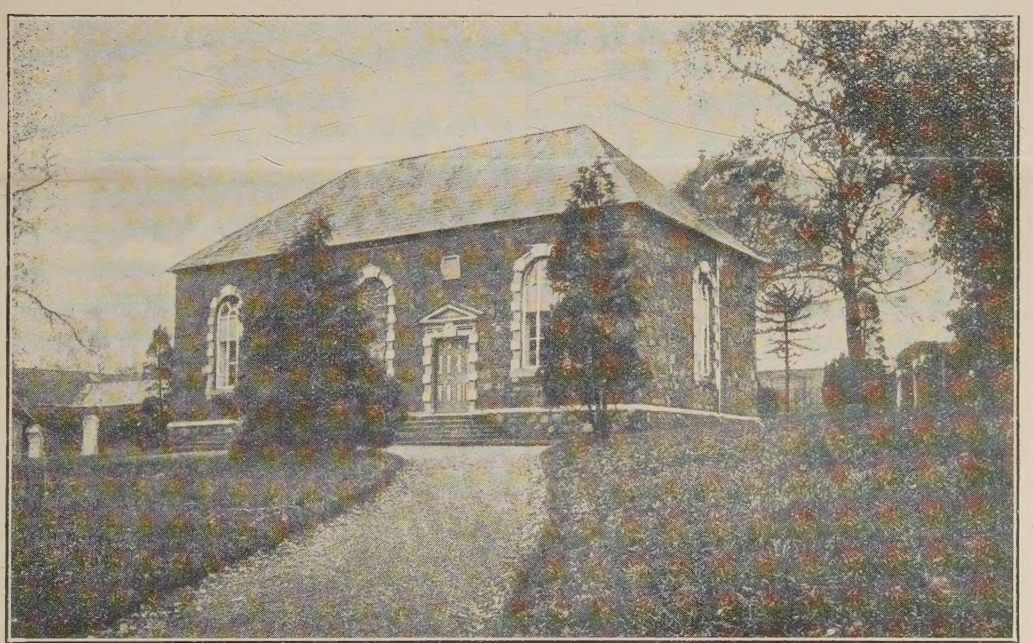

NON-SUBSCRIBING PRESBYTERIAN MEETING-HOUSE, DUNMURRY.

NOTES AND NEWS.

We are glad to know that our Moderator, Rev. E. Savell Hicks, M.A., had good congregations in Larne and York Street and that his visit was much appreciated. Dr. Agnew had also good congregations in Dublin, and on Monday night gave his Russian lecture to an audience so large that the chairman's own chair had to be commandeered, though the lecture had only been announced that morning. A somewhat exciting meeting ended in hearty cheers for the lecturer.

* * *

As most of our readers may be aware, the Right Hon. James Andrews was sworn in and took the oath as Lord Chief Justice of Northern Ireland on the 1st December. We can assure his Lordship of the gratification this high distinction affords to the religious community of which he is such a prominent and devoted member, and we tender him our congratulations and hearty good wishes.

* * *

The programme of the Central Adult School, 75 Upper Arthur Street, Belfast, which was founded over a century ago, shows an attractive syllabus of varied subjects for the Session January-June, 1938. Meetings on Sundays, 3-30 p.m., 75 Upper Arthur St., Belfast, the President of which is Mr. R. N. McNeill, LL.B. Several of the lecturers are prominent citizens. The meetings are open to all who care to attend. Hon. Secretary, Mrs. T. H. Mayes, 44 Knock Road, Belfast.

* * *

A correspondent to *he Daily Express* of January 6th, gives the following as his estimate of the characteristics of the various creeds : —

Church of England : Order, coolness.
R.C. : Loyalty (to their faith).
Presbyterians : Determination.
Methodists : Sociability.
Baptists and Salvation Army : Fervour.
Congregationalists : Decency.
Christian Scientists : Refinement.
Plymouth Brethren : Clannishness ; scriptural experts.
Quakers : Peace, kindness, truthfulness.

* * *

March, 1938, number published on 26th February. Copy sent in before February 19 will be received by Rev. John Barron, Ballywalter, Co. Down.

The 315th Ministers' meeting was held on Monday, January 3rd, at 150 King's Road, Knock, Belfast. The host was the Rev. J. Barron. Notwithstanding the severe weather there was a good attendance, some having come a very long distance. The present secretary is the Rev. Howard Payne.

* * *

PULPIT SUPPLY—The Rev. W. Eakin, 103 Greenore Street, Belfast.

* * *

The Year Book for 1938, of the International Association for Liberal Christianity and Religious Freedom, presents us with a perspective of the movement extending all over the world. There is a detailed report of the Congress held last year at Oxford. The new President is Dr. Louis C. Cornish, who recently retired from the Presidency of the American UnitarianAssociation. The proceedings were conducted under various sections, some with very learned titles, which none the less dealt with matters of vital importance, such as that of "the unity of the Church of God, rooted in the Gospel" Speakers from various countries addressed the meetings.

* * *

Dr. Hall, paying a tribute to the service rendered by progressiveChristianity, remarked that Sacramental and evangelical forms of faith had signally failed in fostering tolerance and moderation. Our own experience with reference to the Sacramental form of faith, has been entirely contrary to this statement. We are thankful to say the Sacramental form has not been eliminated from our Church in Ireland ; and one point on which during a long experience we have held firmly to, is that of Sacramentalism ; perhaps more strongly to-day than ever. We are inclined to agree with the axiom, "No Sacraments, no Church."

* * *

Dr. R. Grycz Smilowski of Krakow, the founder of a group of national religious liberals in Poland, which has an ancient name the "Polish Brethren," made a statement which might need pondering, and that is that he would propose as title for his movement "religious materialism." Dr. Priestley, one of the first in England to call himself "Unitarian," also used the term "materialism" for his philosophy, but with him it had a different significance than it had, say with Charles Bradlaugh or Annie Besant in their Secularist work. Dr. Eliot, U.S.A., sounded a fine inspiring note on "the Future of Liberal Christianity." Liberal Christianity. he said,

must become more truly and thoroughly liberal, and at the same time more wholeheartedly and humbly Christian. We should link ourselves more closely to the great body of Christians on one and to the great body of liberals on the other side. Whatever may be the official views of the great churches, we should always think of ourselves as within the main stream of Christian tradition. The liberal Christian has not separated himself from Christian tradition until he thinks himself as outside. On the other hand, we must be prepared to so use the name of Christ as unite us with men of sincere and reverent faith in every land, also in other religions. So mote it be !

* * *

A Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church Service will be broadcast from the Northern Ireland Studio of the B.B.C. on Sunday, 30th January, from 7—7-55 p.m., to be conducted by the Rev. R. Nicol Cross, M.A., Minister of the First Presbyterian Church, Belfast, who will also give the address.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, BELFAST.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CENTENARY

1838—1938.

SUNDAY SERVICES 11-30 a.m. and 7 p.m.

February 6th—Rev. E. SAVELL HICKS, M.A. (Dublin), Moderator of the Church,

Feb. 13th—Rev. LESLIE J. BELTON, B A , M Sc. (London), Editor of "The Inquirer."

CONVERSAZIONE

On MONDAY, FEB. 7th, in CENTRAL HALL, Rosemary Street.

Chairman—Rev. R. NICOL CROSS, M.A.

SPEAKERS :

Rev. E. SAVELL HICKS, M.A. (Dublin) Moderator of the Church; H. J. F. ORR, Esq., on "The History of our School"; ROBERT McCRUM, Esq., to whom an Illuminated Address will be presented on completing 22 years as School Superintendent.

Musical and other Items will be arranged by Mr. ALBERT TAYLOR, L.R.A.M., A.R.C.O.

TEA, 7—8 p.m. PROGRAMME, 8—10 p.m.

All Friends and old Scholars are cordially invited.

Tickets 1/- each, at the Church and the Depository, 35 Rosemary Street.

During this month and part of the next, the Orphan Fund collections will take place.

Ministers' Pension and Insurance Fund Appeal.

The purpose of the Fund is to help ministers to pay Annual Premiums for Life Insurance, and Pension at the age of 65. The benefits are available for ministers of the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church in Ireland equally with ministers in England. The Appeal is for £12,000, and the response so far has been most generous and gratifying.

DONATIONS FROM NORTHERN IRELAND.

Prevously acknowledged	£62	7	0
First Church, Belfast, Needlework Guild (per Mrs. Nicol Cross)	15	0	0
In memory of Dr. Orr, Belfast	10	0	0
Rev. J. J. Magill, Rademon	10	0	0
Mr. F. H. Rogers, Belfast	5	5	0
Mr. S. C Nelson Carr, Belfast	5	0	0
Mr. & Mrs. H. Thomas, Belfast	5	0	0
Rev. W H. T. Tilson, Grèyabbey	5	0	0
Rev. J. Dare Davies, Moneyrea	5	0	0
Rev. F. Munford, Belfast	5	0	0
Rev. A. Davison, Dromore	5	0	0
Rev. A. L. Agnew, Belfast	4	0	0
Rev. J. McCleery, Newry	2	2	0
Rev. D. J. Williams, Killinchy	2	2	0
Rev. E. Lockett, Holywood	1	1	0
Rev. W. G. Marsden, Ballycarry	1	0	0

Remittances should be sent to the Hon. Treasurer, F. Alan Martineau, Esq. M.A., 5 Crown Office Row, Temple, London E.C.4, by whom they will be gratefully acknowledged.

R. NICOL CROSS,
(Member of Board).

SUBSIDY FUND.

The Treasurer begs to acknowledge with thanks receipt of the following subscription :

All Souls' Congregation, Belfast (per Miss A. F. Montgomery) £0 14 0

Contributions should be addressed to Rev. A. Davison, Dromore, by whom they will be gratefully acknowledged.

THE DIVINE WISDOM.

Rom. I., 19—"For whatever is to be known of God is plain to men; God himself has made it plain—for ever since the world was created, his invisible nature, his everlasting power and divine being have been quite perceptible in what he has made."

REPORTS.

Cairncastle—In the Old Meetinghouse School, Cairncastle, a sale of work and cake fair was held under the auspices of Cairncastle Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church, the proceeds being in aid of the renovation of church property.

Despite the inclemency of the weather there was a good attendance.

Rev. John Begg (Old Presbyterian Church of Larne and Kilwaughter) conducted devotional exercises.

Rev. Thomas Munn, the minister of the Cairncastle congregation, in a few introductory words explained the object of the sale. He also stated that they were met under a cloud owing to the death of their esteemed secretary, Mr. Robert Crawford, whose energies and helpfulness they would greatly miss. They sympathised deeply with his sisters. In asking the Rev. R. A. Mollan, M.A., rector of Cairncastle, to take the chair, Mr. Munn paid tribute to the happy relationships existing between the different congregations in the district.

Rev. Mr. Mollan, in his remarks, expressed his appreciation at the invitation to preside and also alluded to the cordial feelings existing between the congregations, mentioning that he was very happy at Cairncastle. He hoped the sale would be most successful. He then introduced Mrs. Minnis, Larne, and invited her to declare the sale open.

Mrs. Minnis said that the congregation was a happy one, and the members were alive to their responsibilities, as was exemplified by that sale and the excellent variety of articles she saw on the stalls before her. The ladies had been preparing for that event for some time and she hoped their efforts would meet with the success they deserved. Mrs. Minnis also referred to the death of Mr. Crawford, and joined in the expression of sympathy to his sisters. She was sure it would have been Mr. Crawford's wish that the sale would be a great success, and with that added sentiment she warmly commended it to those present.

A hearty vote of thanks to Mrs. Minnis was proposed by Mr. Munn and seconded by the Rev. Dr. Agnew. The Chairman was thanked, on the proposition of the Rev. Mr. Begg, seconded by Mr. J. M'Clelland.

Warrenpoint—The annual meeting of Warrenpoint First Presbyterian (Non-Subscribing) Church was held on Thursday night, 6th January. Tea was served by the ladies of the congregation, after which an enjoyable musical programme was contributed.

Following the concert all the members stood in silence as a token of respect and in memory of the late Mr. Robert E. Kerr, who had been a loyal member of the congregation as well as discharging the duties of treasurer.

Rev. John M'Cleery, B.A., S.T.M., then took the chair for the business meeting, and thanked the members for their loyalty and devotion in the past year. He also referred to the fact that the membership had increased, and said that was the largest annual meeting for many years.

The Chairman called upon Mr. Fred Kerr to present his statement of accounts, which was unanimously adopted. A discussion on the future of the church followed, and thanks were expressed to the office-bearers and to Mr. M'Cleery. The committee was re-elected, and in view of the increased membership two additional names were added.

Games and competitions were enjoyed, and through the generosity of some of the members, toys, fruit and sweets were distributed. —*Newry Reporter.*

Ballyhamlin—The distribution of prizes to the Sunday School, took place on Sunday morning, January 9th, in the Session Room, Mr. F. M. Allen of Nunsquarter, giving out the books. One prize was to Eveline Jackson, daughter of Mr. Alex. Jackson of Toronto, Canada, a native of Ballyhamlin. Miss E. Jackson came over from Toronto by herself on a visit, a long voyage for such a young passenger to come alone. She may return about April. During her stay she has never missed a Sunday, coming on her bicycle several miles, in all weathers.

Belfast York Street—Rev. E. Savell Hicks paid his Moderatorial visit on the first Sunday of the year. As his visit was almost unexpected we were not able to show him just the congregation we might have though there were few empty seats. Mr. Hicks complimented the congregation on their remarkable progress and the friendly and enthusiastic atmosphere of the Church with its crowds of young people. He was greatly impressed with the Social Hour where he remained till eleven p.m. Members greatly enjoyed his visit.

There is nothing unusual to record though the past month has been exceedingly busy. The Christmas and New Year Socials were more crowded than ever as was the Watch Night Service. Members stood in silence to welcome the New Year after which there was a scene of wild enthusiasm. The children

had their own celebrations. The Swimming Club held a well attended Gala.

The Annual Report shows a new high record in collections in spite of the thin time in September due to our Minister's illness and the long summer. This figure is always eagerly watched as it shows that our congregation is still increasing in spite of the increasing distances at which members are living and the counter attractions of meetings and cinemas now being held at the time of Church Services in the City. Our constant efforts to induce members of our Country Churches to pay us a visit on Sunday Nights seem at last to be meeting with some response. In many Denominations the building of a new Church would justify appeals for subscriptions and success would ensure a ready response. All we ask is the help of personal attendance so that our new members would feel that they had come amongst friendly and enthusiastic people.

There are hundreds of Non-Subscribers living with in an hour's run of our Church. Many of them wish to see more progress. When hundreds of people have been induced to come to us we must show them that there is life in our own ranks and it is surely an easy and pleasant task.

Banbridge—Our Annual Party was a delightful evening spent in the Dunbar Memorial School on New Year's Eve. There were nearly a hundred present, chiefly young people, for it was their night. Tea was prepared and served by the ladies, very much enjoyed, and followed by an hour of rollicking games, including the time honoured "Grand Old Duke of York," "The farmer wants a wife" and "musical arms."

The Prize Distribution followed, Miss M'Caw a most faithful member, graciously handed the Bibles and Books awarded to the young people. In opening remarks the minister voiced a few words of appreciation of the valuable labours of the teachers. The superintendent, Miss M'Keown who was also a capable day school teacher, had been an invaluable Sunday School teacher for some time now, and was much loved by all who sat before her Sunday by Sunday. "She certainly deserved a prize" said the minister, and this sentiment was echoed by rounds of applause from the children and their elders, testimony that all did think very highly of her. Mr. Stevenson too, although a teacher for two years was taking his work very seriously among the younger ones: he had even been in correspondence with the Religious Education Department of the General Assembly with a view to making himself more efficient in his work. He too deservedly received a hearty clapping of hands. There is no doubt that our Sunday School is in capable hands, as indeed it should be, for is this not a most valuable piece of Church work?

Special mention was made of those who had best attendances at the Church Services and Sunday School. League of Loyalty prizes were awarded the former. Peggy and Doreen Radcliffe had attended the Services on every Sunday throughout the year, Fred Martin and Eileen Stevenson following close behind. These four also headed the Sunday School list of best attenders. A very worthy achievement. Isabel Derby (League of Loyalty) and Jim Stevenson (L. of L. and Sunday School) were also named for exceptional attendances. Miss M'Caw was thanked for her services in handing over these prizes.

Then came Father Christmas, loudly cheered, in a gorgeous new outfit which surely could never have been near a chimney. He brought with him a tray full of fascinating, intriguing, gifts. These were distributed among all present, and those who for one reason or another were unable to be present, were not forgotten. Mr. Victor Bryans for some known reason was not visible while Father Christmas was present. However, three cheers for the dear old man, then a "Happy New Year" to all, and the Benediction brought one of our most enjoyable parties to an end.

Glenarm—The call forwarded through the Presbytery of Templepatrick, to the Rev. E. Lockett of Holywood has been accepted. The installation is fixed for April 1st.

Downpatrick—The Rev. Henry Hall of Hinckley, has accepted the call, sent through the Presbytery of Antrim. The ordination will take place on Thursday, February 17th.

Mountpottinger Women's League—The monthly meeting was held on the 11th Jan., at which a paper on the life of Tennyson was read by the President. The address proved very entertaining, and Mrs. Munford introduced a few of the poet's very beautiful poems. Afterwards, over a cup of tea, a short discussion took place, with a number of the members recalling their favourite poems written by Tennyson.

Ballycarry—On December 31st, the Sunday School Children were entertained at their

Annual Soiree. The teachers assisted and the members of the Women's League were responsible for the efficient way in which the entertainment was carried out, so that all the children spent a most enjoyable time.

In the evening the Soiree held annually by the Church Committee was a great success, over a hundred persons participating in a delightful time of music and dancing.

The distribution of prizes to the children of the Sunday School took place on the 16th of January, 1938.

Holywood—The Annual Sunday School Party was held on Friday, January 7th. After the children had been given a good tea, an entertainment was provided by the Scholars, consisting of Christmas Carols, a Fairy Play called "Jessie's Dream" (produced by Mrs. F. A. Robinson), songs by Miss Gertrude Shannon, music and mirth by a Kentucky Trio (Masters R. Robinson, E. Harrison and Leslie Murphy), and a "Stick" dance by Miss Eileen Meneely. During the programme the School prizes were distributed by Mrs. Robinson (Superintendent of the evening School). Fourteen special prizes were won by scholars who had made full attendances. A very happy evening ended with the giving away of gifts from a fine Christmas Tree by Father Christmas (Mr. James Shannon, jun., Superintendent of the morning School). Hearty thanks were given to all who had contributed to the success of the gathering, and especially to Mrs. Robinson, Mrs. Middleton, Miss Ena Meneely and Miss Kennedy, of Cultra Manor, the donor of the Christmas Tree.

Ballyhamlin—The Rev. John Barron, on completing his term of office, January 19th, as Worshipful Master of Shamrock Lodge 354, Kircubbin, received the presentation of a jewel from his Masonic Brethren.

Belfast Domestic Mission—The Annual Sermons on behalf of the above Mission will be preached by the Rev. A. W. Vallance, B.A. of Pendleton, Manchester, and Editor of the Unitarian and Free Christian Monthly, on Sunday, March 13th, in the First Church, Rosemary Street and All Souls, at 11-30 a.m. and 7 p.m. On Monday, the 14th, in the Central Hall, Mr. Vallance will lecture on "Rambles in the Black Forest," illustrated by lantern slides. Sympathetic support of these meetings will be welcomed by those responsible for the welfare of the Mission, which, under the new Missioner, Rev. Walter Rowland, is continuing the good work so ably carried on during the last four years by the Rev. William Eakin.

Mr. Eakin's resignation which took effect at the end of November was a severe blow to the Committee and members alike, but Mr. F. M. Pett nobly stepped into the breach and carried on the duties of Temporary Missioner, this, in addition to successfully producing his own play, presented by the Malcolm Dramatic Club on January 7th in the Central Hall.

The Christmas parties were all carefully organised and special grocery parcels distributed. The Sunday School prizes were distributed on Sunday, December 19th, Mr. Eakin making a welcome reappearance in order to officiate.

A New Year's Party on January 15th, gave the members of the Mission an opportunity to welcome Mr. Rowland but the official welcome will take place on Thursday, February 10th, when it is hoped Mrs. Rowland will be in Belfast.—E. M. Jackson, Hon. Sec.

Moneyrea—The Xmas Party in connection with the Sunday School was held in the Old School, on Saturday evening, December 18th. Proceedings began at 6 o'clock, with an excellent tea for the scholars. The teachers and the ladies of the congregation presided at the tables. After which followed the programme. The minister who occupied the chair, distributed books as prizes to scholars for good attendance, Miss Fanny McCullough was given a special prize, a gold medal presented by the Sunday School Committee for 10 years unbroken attendance—a splendid record. Intense excitement was caused by the unveiling of the Xmas tree by Miss R. Kennedy, who assisted by Mrs. McCartney and Miss Dempster had a very busy time handing presents to the children.

The senior class gave an excellent performance of the short comedy entitled "A Nice Quiet Morning," (Abel Heywood); the members taking part were—Moore Fisher, (Mr. Wrightwell, an author); Samuel Hogg, (Giles Baconside, a farmer); Shaw Dogherty, (Mr. N. O. Peacue, a solicitor); James Blair, (Pat O'Cork, an Irish Client); Bertie McCullough, (Mr. Snipsnap, a tailor); Thomas McFarland, (a Caretaker); Fanny Mc Cullough, (Mrs. Rederring, a fish woman); Margaret Lappin, (Letitia Snowden, a spinster). The party was a great success, for both children and adults thoroughly enjoyed themselves, and the organisers deserve thanks and praise for their good work.

OBITUARY.

Robert Crawford, "Playhill," Cairncastle.

"The Old Meeting House" congregation has suffered a great loss in the death of their esteemed secretary, Mr. Robert Crawford. He was loyal to his church, proud of its traditions and devoted to the liberal faith for which it stands. Although an energetic worker for other public and social organisations, he always found time for any duty that his church required. Others might be absent from the Sunday worship but it was something out of the ordinary when Mr. Crawford's seat was vacant. In his passing the congregation has lost a loyal member, an efficient secretary, a regular and devoted worshipper and a good friend. What he was and what he did will long remain among the touching recollections of the members of the Cairncastle congregation. He was a member of a family that for many years has been loyal supporters of the Cairncastle Church. One of his sisters is honorary organist at the present time. To her and the other two sisters we extend our sincere sympathy and condolence in their great bereavement, and to the members of the congregation our sympathy in the loss of their esteemed Secretary.

The funeral to Cairncastle Church-yard testified in a striking way to the respect and esteem in which deceased was held, all the clergymen of the immediate district taking part in the funeral services. The service at the house was conducted by Rev. T. Munn (Cairncastle Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church), and Rev. W. J. J. Reid (Cairncastle Presbyterian Church), while at the graveside Rev. Mr. Munn, Rev. R. A. Mollan (rector of Cairncastle), and Rev. J. Begg, of the Old Presbyterian Church of Larne and Kilwaughter, officiated.

Malcolm Brice Smyth, B.A., M.B. (Y.C.D.)

Dr. Malcolm Brice Smyth, whose death took place after a long illness at his residence, 20 University Square, Belfast, was a member of the First Presbyterian Church, Rosemary Street, and belonged to a well-known family of doctors. His father, to whose medical practice he succeeded along with another of the brothers who predeceased him, was one of the Founders of the Belfast Hospital for Sick Children, another instance of what the First Church contributed to the life of Belfast and its institutions in former days. Dr. Brice Smyth continued to take a deep and active interest in the Hospital, being a member of the staff and giving his skill and services conscientiously to the children within its walls. In his own profession he won the confidence and regard of colleagues and the friendship and gratitude of patients, among whom he could count some of the distinguished people of the province. He was personally a man of very amiable qualities, unassuming sympathetic and kindly, and he will be very deeply missed by all who knew him and to whom he ingratiated himself as a gentleman, and a good fellow.

He was fond of sport and loved especially to get away to quiet streams where he could practise the gentle art of Isaak Walton. Fishing was his chief recreation and it indicates the man, but he also included shooting in his occasional pastimes.

To various charities in our own denomination he was a regular and liberal subscriber, besides being Honorary Physican to the Belfast Domestic Mission, where he readily responded to calls when they came.

Taken away at a comparatively early age his loss to his own home and family will be irerparable and heartfelt sympathy will go out from a large circle of friends to Mrs. Brice Smyth and his three daughters in their sore bereavement.

Mrs. Sarah Thompson.

On Thursday, January 6th, Mrs. Sarah Thompson suddenly passed away. Formerly member of our church at Templepatrick and later of the First Presbyterian Church, Crumlin, her death will be mourned by a large circle of friends. The interment took place at Crumlin on Saturday, January 8th, the Rev. J. Hinkins officiating at the house and at the grave-side. A numerous gathering testified to the respect in which the deceased was held. Deepest sympathy is felt for the husband and family.—J.H.

Mr. David Craig.

On January 10th, there were laid to rest at Dundonald Cemetery, Belfast, the mortal remains of Mr. David Craig, whose tragic death took place in Des. Moins, U.S.A. The late Mr. Craig met with a severe accident which proved fatal while in the execution of his duty on a building, from which he fell. He lingered for about a fortnight, but it was found that he was fatally injured, and despite all medical aid that could be secured, he gradually grew weaker and died. It was his urgent wish which he expressed to his wife that his body should be taken to his native

land for burial. The funeral was attended by a large number of friends from Cramlin, his native place, and from Belfast. His widow with her little daughter to whom we extend our deep sympathy in her affliction, is a daughter of the late Mr. Davin Hill, whose paternal home is the Rock Farm, Magheramorne, near Ballycarry, but who for many years had been resident in Belfast.

A Service was held in the funeral parlour of Messrs Johnson's Undertakers, Donegal Road, and at the grave side. The Rev. W. G. Marsden, an old friend of the family, conducted the services. To Mrs. Samuel Hill who resides at Eden, near Carrickfergus, a sister, and to Mr. Samuel Craig, a brother, of the same address we also extend our sincere sympathy.

SUNDAY SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

The following are the subjects for the Essay Competition for 1938 :

1. "Christ's Teaching about the last Judgment."
2. "St. Paul's First Missionary Journey."
3. "What do we mean by Non-Subscribing Presbyterian ?"
4. "Tell the story of Daniel."
5. "Should we have Flower-Sunday—and why ?"

Essays to be written on one side of paper only.

The name, age, and Sunday School the competitor attends are to be written on front page, which must contain nothing else. Commence the essay on the second page—front page to be detachable.

Essays of competitors over twelve years of age must be of not less than 500 words.

Essays are to reach me not later than Monday, 16th May, 1938.

REV. J. GLYNNE DAVIES,
The Manse,
Comber, Belfast.

"Decay is inherent in all component things. Work out your salvation with diligence."—Last words of Buddha.

Melchisedec was without father or mother, without beginning and end of days. An Eastern equivalent for such an "Ancient of Days" is "the Youth of Sixteen Summers."

"STAND FOR PRAYER!"

When a group thus "stands to order," it stands no longer only in time and space, but in eternity. It enters into spiritual fulness, it is complete and as such is eternal. And when in such a way a number of people stand "to order" in the eternal, a mighty miracle happens in the small integral unit, the great total integral Whole swoops down. It is bound to do so, for wherever there is a small eternal thing, there, by its nature is the whole eternal Totality ; wherever there is something perfect, however small, there also is Perfection in its fulness, in its totality. Therefore Christ *is* present in His mystical body, which is a congregation of mortal men. Then God *is* in our midst, and in a very special sense, we live and move in Him and have our being —that is, we *are*—in Him. Then for the time being we form a "heavenly host," a collective being of a higher and spiritual order ; we *are*, for the time being, superhuman.

Having risen in this way above our own individual possibilities, we are able to build into our being and add to it, the possibilities of the collectivity. Having realised collectively, we know individually, and so. . . . . "When the solemn hour is closed and the sacred rites are done" having been in the Light of Lord we return to the everyday outer world of darkness ;

And pass into the silent might
To be the bearers of His Light.

Dr. A. G. VREEDE,
"St. Michael's News,"—Holland.

Unitarians and Universalists in America joined in forming one church, the Free Church of America. The only difference between them was that the Universalists believed that God was too good to damn them, and the Unitarians believed that they were too good for God to damn. It was said, with what amount of truth we do not know, that the Unitarians had the money and the Universalists had the numbers.

DEATH.

CRAWFORD—Dec. 13th, at his residence, Playhill, Cairncastle, Robert Crawford, younger son of the late Robert Crawford (coach-builder). Interred in Cairncastle Churchyard on Wednesday, 15th Dec., 1937. Deeply regretted.

CORRESPONDENCE.

CAN POVERTY BE ENDED?

(To to Editor of the N.S. Presbyterian)

SIR,—Will you allow me to congratulate you and the Church your magazine represents on letters appearing in recent issues on the subject of the abolition of poverty in a country and Empire teeming with actual and still more potential plenty.

Something is wrong, and it is a very encouraging sign that at least one branch of the Christian fraternity is becoming alive to the necessity of subjecting the desperate situation that confronts us to "the discipline of Christian thought which will issue in patient inquiry into the facts."

These facts, and the curse of the monopoly of credit that cause them, have been ruthlessly exposed for some time past by Major Douglas and his faithful band of Credit Reform pioneers; the issue has been joined and the preliminary stages of the struggle are even now under weigh in the Canadian Province of Alberta.

But the fight is our fight and results must be demanded by an awakened electorate, results which are physically possible of accomplishment but which must also be made financially possible.

The people are looking for a lead, and what body is more suitable for giving them that lead than the Church of whatever denomination, whose mission, as the mission of Christ, should be to substitute life, life more abundant, for the poverty-ridden existence that most of us lead to-day, and which is no longer necessary in this machine-age of prolific abundance.

Hoping that the correspondence on this vital subject which has been started in your magazine will be productive of much useful thought and effort on behalf of down-trodden and fear-ridden humanity the world over.

Yours faithfully,

WM. HENDERSON.

SIR,—It is gratifying to find the N.S.P. giving such prominence to the question, "Can Poverty be Ended?" Too often poverty is regarded as an act of God or due to the lack of interest by the individuals concerned, hence any approach to reality is appreciated by those desirous of "Abolishing Poverty Amidst Plenty."

There can be no dispute that the fear of poverty is practically universal. Few have any permanency of employment, money saved for old-age etc., is constantly losing its spending power. Schools and Universities are turning out thousands of trained pupils and graduates for whom there exists no hope of employment.

The struggle for work demands an export trade which ultimately leads to war, providing thereby work for all.

The ultimate cause of war is always economic and if we wish to end war, we must attack with all the power we possess, the real cause, the outworn, obsolete economic system, which keeps the people of the world in want, or the fear of want, and makes their governments irritable and eventually drives them at each other throats like maniacs.

The wholesale restrictions and the destruction of commodites repudiates the suggestion that there is any actual shortage. What is wanted is a distribution of purchasing power to the community equivalent to the prices of the goods for sale. This shortage of purchasing power is due to the eliminating of the human factor through the mechanization of industry.

With the displacement of man, production increases, unfortunately being deprived of work, millions forfeit their license to live, consequently we have the paradox of millions starving amidst plenty.

It is obvious that our monetary system is not distributing the abundance that science has made possible, and a remedy is not possible until we recognise that the wage system is an anachronism in a machine age. The wealth that machines now produce is our heritage. Therefore it is our duty to see that no restriction is imposed upon industry until everyone's needs are satisfied.

If we fail to recognise that this is our responsibility, history will not record our science, our art or our literature but our inability to distribute the fruits of science.

In a democracy the people do not plead, they demand. Are you prepared, irrespective of your political opinion, to demand that Poverty be Ended. The responsibility of failure is yours.

THOMAS LAMONT.

THE SUSTENTATION FUND.

DEAR SIR,—May I draw the attention of the members of our various congregations to the above Fund, probably the most important one in connection with our denomination.

This fund which is administered most economically, (the expenses rarely exceeding 1% *of money distributed*) was started with the object of supplementing local sources of ministerial income. By careful management the amount distributed annually has risen substantially but is still very low compared to similar funds in other denominations.

I appeal to your readers, to bear this Fund in mind, especially in their Charitable bequests. By its aid, weak congregations have been enabled to carry on in the past, and now it is more needed than ever. At the same time, I would draw the attention of Testators to seeing that this Fund is properly described. All bequests should read—To the Treasurer for the time being of the Sustentation Fund of the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church of Ireland. Any abbreviation of title may raise a legal point. We now have thirty congregations, receiving an average of £45 per annum, let us all endeavour to raise sufficient so that £50 can be paid. If each congregation would endeavour to contribute to our Capital Fund annually, an amount no matter how small, the joint effort would attain success.—Yours truly,

H. J. F. ORR, Convener.

At the request of the Convener of the Sustententation Fund of the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church of Ireland, we have drafted provisionally, forms of Bequest, based on those in "The Year Book of 1938."

FORM OF GIFT OF MONEY BY WILL.

I give to the Treasurer for the time being of The Sustentation Fund of The Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church of Ireland, whose receipt for the same shall be a sufficient discharge to my Executors, the sum of £ . . . free from all death duties.

FORM OF GIFT OF LAND OR HOUSES BY WILL.

I devise to the Treasurer for the time being of The Sustentation Fund of the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church of Ireland, free of all death duties my house (or field *describe the premises*) upon trust to sell the same and hold the net proceeds of such sale upon trust for the general purposes of the said Sustentation Fund.

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